

Notes from Barrow in Bloom AGM Meeting 01
held on 22nd November 2021
Parish Council Offices

Present: Bloom - Annette Richardson (AR)- Chair , Ruston (AFR) - Treasurer, Elizabeth Goldsworthy – Secretary, Karen Libby, Barrow Parish Council - Alice Gardam , Sandie Forrest, Charnwood BC - Eleanor Montgomery, Barrow Gardening Club - Maggie Bellamy, Barrow Open Gardens/BUSCA - Lin Webb, Barrow WI – Pat Moore.

Description

1. Welcome and Apologies: Apologies - Bloom - Helen Robberts, (HR), Canal and River Trust – Gareth Carter

AR welcomed everyone to our first AGM and thanked all for attending. Barrow in Bloom is the umbrella group for other related groups within the village, namely the Footpaths Group, Litter Picking Group, Railway Station Adopters, Wild About Barrow, and other Projects team.
Our aim today is to confirm funding has been spend as agreed, and to re-elect members.

2. Summary of the Year to Date: A link to all projects was provided with the invite. AR provided some additional information.

Deep Lock - Karen and Brian Libby actively maintain this area on behalf of the group. Hawthorn whips for the towpath are due to be planted later this month.

Wildflowers in Millennium Park - coming through late spring/early summer. Support from Parish Council via Mark Munro.

Wildflowers Cotes Road - approved with assistance from Leicestershire CC and Naturespot. The area will take time to develop.

Best Pub Planter - revisit how to run future competitions. Tie in with other groups i.e., BUSCA, Gardening Club.

Railway Station Adoption - meeting next month. Free planter available. Location to be agreed.

Bridge Street - £500 awarded through Dobbies Helping Your Community Grow scheme. Bulbs planted. Materials available for bench maintenance.

Thank you to all those involved with the above projects.

3. Financial Report:

AFR updated the meeting on funding received, grants and status of bank a/c. Auditor signed off the accounts.

4. Re-election of Officers:

Secretary nominated, seconded and unanimously voted in.

Treasurer nominated, seconded and unanimously voted in.

Chair nominated, seconded and unanimously voted in.

All officers happy to be re-elected.

5. Future Plans: A link to all projects was provided with the invite. AR provided some additional information.

Wildflowers - aim to increase biodiversity. Bloom is grateful of ongoing support from Parish Council via Mark.

Station Adoption – Support is available from EMR. Issue of water access to maintain plants. Water butt installation dependent upon space. Possible terracing along vegetation bank. Discuss artwork displays involving local children. Graffiti ongoing issue. Suggestion of involving recognised street artists. Consult EMR.

Bridge Street - Dobbies funding will assist with agreed maintenance.

Flint Lane - 200 various whips donated by Seagrave Nurseries and Richard Proctor. Helen Roberts liaising with DWH.

Village Schools - working with Humphrey Perkins School Duke of Edinburgh Scheme for their secret garden. Exploring various possibilities for support from other organisations.

Bug Hotels/Bird Boxes - liaise with RSPB for correct locations.

Sensory Garden – grasses to be divided and shrubs trimmed - starting this month. Volunteers welcome.

Willow Road Adoption - Working with Parish Council. Environmental perspective.

Green Corridor - permission still required to establish wildflowers along Fishpool Brook and Piets Close.

Parish Council Hanging Baskets – these are being extended in 2022 along to Bridge Street and South Street. Theme red, white, blue.

6. East Midlands in Bloom 2022:

AR provided an update from the recent **EMiB Committee meeting**:

A new “Early Spring Display Award” will be running next year, similar to Front Gardens. Submit photos to emphasise impact.

“It’s Your Neighbourhood” is the non-competitive category, EMiB have requested help with identifying new Assessors. RHS are involved and provide support. Possibility for the future.

EMiB Competition 2022 - 4th -15th July - details on website.

As there were no nominations put forward to lead the village entry into next year’s EMiB competition, it was agreed not to enter to allow the main focus for 2022 to be the Platinum Jubilee.

A meeting will be arranged for early next year to look into a two-year plan for this competition and to take on board the judges’ comments from this year’s competition and action them accordingly.

Any Other Business:

Platinum Jubilee – Barrow Parish Council and Love it Local are running a two-day event on Willow Road Park i.e., street market, fair, etc. All groups can participate.

Gardening Group – The group has negotiated a 50% discount off seeds, and 15% off equipment. Contact the group if you wish to take advantage. “Learn yourself Gardening” – in order to run this new course, 10 participants are needed, but currently only 3 have registered. Deadline end of November. Monthly Newsletter – information from other village groups can be submitted for inclusion.

Open Gardens - No definitive plans with forthcoming Platinum Jubilee. Front Gardens a great success. Aim for 24 participants, with two days needed to see this work. Very popular with villagers and visitors. It will ideally link with another event. Usually held third weekend June.

Bloom Logo - AR circulated suggested new permanent logo. Meeting unanimously approved.

A huge vote of thanks was extended to AR, for her hard work, proactive approach to village events and involvement and support to all of us.

AR thanked all for attending, Barrow Parish Council for their support and funding, Charnwood Borough Council for continued support and to all the individual groups for all of their ongoing support to Bloom.